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BOOK REVIEWS.

THE AMERICAN DIGEST. (Annual. 1896.) Prepared and Edited by the Editorial Staff of the National Reporter System. St. Paul, Minn. : West Publishing Co. 1896.

The profession is under great obligations to the editors and publishers of this Annual. The new Digest is constructed on the same admirable lines as its predecessors. About one-sixth larger than the '95 Annual, it begins to assume Brobdignagian proportions.

FEDERAL JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE as modified by Acts of Congress of March 3, 1891, and March 3, 1887. Corrected by the Act of August 13, 1888. WILLIAM A. MAURY, LL.D. Washington, D. C. : W. H. Lowdermilk & Co. 1896.

As indicated by the title, this pamphlet treats of the jurisdiction of the Federal courts as affected by recent legislation. It was prepared for use in the Law School of Columbian University with the object of collecting in a convenient form the above-mentioned acts, together with such portions of the constitution and revised statutes as are necessary to a full understanding of the purpose with which Congress acted, and the scope within which its powers were exercised.

As the work does not aim at a general discussion of Federal jurisdiction but simply at a reproduction of the results which have been reached, the author's province has been limited to the field of compilation, but the orderly and logical arrangement make the book useful for purposes of reference. *M. L., Jr.*

COMMENTARIES ON AMERICAN LAW. By JAMES KENT. Fourteenth Edition. Edited by JOHN M. GOULD, Ph.D. Boston : Little, Brown & Co. 1896.

Though seventy years have passed since the first of these great Commentaries appeared, they still rank as the first of American classics. In that period there have been many changes in our growing jurisprudence, but there is, notwithstanding, extraordinary harmony between Chancellor Kent's views and the decisions of the highest courts at the present time. It goes without saying, however, that the works have needed an annotator. Twenty-three years ago Judge Holmes, in his celebrated Twelfth Edition, for the time being, supplied this need. His notes were able and elaborate. Ten years later Mr. Barnes edited a Thirteenth Edition, not covering quite so thoroughly the intervening developments in the law. Since these editions there has been a sufficient growth in the law to justify as careful a piece of work as that of Dr. Gould. Inter-